

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **September 13, 2005**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 11

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **TEA-21 Resolution: Riverwalk and Railroad Tunnel Connection**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the requested resolution

SUMMARY: The next phase of the Downtown & Riverfront Master Plan 2000 calls for a James Riverwalk and related entities/connections. The City is seeking funding assistance through VDOT's TEA-21 program to begin the design & engineering of the Riverwalk and related connections. We estimate design & engineering fees to be upwards of \$480,000. We will apply for a \$400,000 grant with a match of \$80,000 by the City (\$60,000) and Amazement Square (\$20,000).

SYNOPSIS: Lynchburg's downtown Riverfront Park is a critical component of the Downtown & Riverfront Master Plan 2000. Lynchburg citizens have very limited access to the James River for recreation and observation. There are two boat launches (adjacent to Griffin Pipe and the Bike Rental) and there is a small access point for swimming on Percival's Island. On the Amherst County side of the James River, there is a boat ramp. Neither side of the river allows for people to walk or bike along the James. The Riverwalk and Railroad Tunnel connection are key components of the Riverfront Park for recreation, historic and tourism purposes. Amazement Square has future plans for exhibit space in the tunnel with direct access to the museum. This grant, if awarded, would allow for the design and engineering of safe access to and through the railroad tunnel. After that, Amazement Square can proceed with their plans to install exhibits and create access between the tunnel and the museum basement.

PRIOR ACTIONS:

- 1) September 6, 2004: Finance Committee reviewed the TEA-21 proposal.
- 2) The City has implemented initial phases of the Riverfront Park improvements as follows: a) Jefferson Street Promenade, b) Great Lawn, c) Depot Plaza (construction to begin in October 2005).

FISCAL IMPACTS: We are seeking a grant of \$400,000 in design & engineering fees. If the grant is awarded, the City would be responsible for a \$60,000 match and Amazement Square would be responsible for a \$20,000 match.

Architectural & Engineering fees **\$480,000**

TEA-21 grant \$400,000

City contribution to 20% match \$ 60,000

Amzt Sq contribution to 20% match \$ 20,000

TOTAL **\$480,000**

CONTACTS: Rachel Flynn (455-3902) and Mort Sajadian (845-1888)

ATTACHMENTS: Site plan of area.

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Resolution

Whereas, in accordance with Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by resolution be received from the local government or state agency in order that the Virginia Department of Transportation program a transportation enhancement project in the City of Lynchburg.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the City of Lynchburg, requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish a project for the downtown Riverwalk and Railroad Tunnel connection in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Be It Further Resolved, that the City of Lynchburg hereby agrees to provide a match of at least 20 percent of the total cost of the project, and that, if the project is cancelled, the responsible entity hereby agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of costs expended through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

RAILROAD TUNNEL

CONNECTOR

RIVERWALK

James River
The Lynnhills Resort



